



January—July 2024 - EVENTS CALENDAR

History Lecture Series at the Norristown Farm Park

Join us for a winter history lecture series – a great opportunity to delve deeper into Pennsylvania history and learn something new! Lectures will be held at Norristown Farm Park on the second Saturday in January, February, and March at 2:00pm. Ages 12 and up; Free.

Saturday, January 13 at 2:00pm – History of PA

Pennsylvania has a long and rich history. Join a County staff member to learn about Pennsylvania's history to 1800, including Native American history, the establishment of the colony, events in the colonial era, Pennsylvania's involvement in the Revolutionary War, and the state's influence after the U.S. gained independence. An interesting and educational presentation about our great state.

Saturday, February 10th at 2:00pm – Slavery in PA

Honor Black History Month with a lecture on the history of the institution of slavery in Pennsylvania. The first enslaved individuals arrived in the territory prior to Pennsylvania's founding as a colony and soon-there-after abolitionists began to speak out. Explore the life of

Pennsylvania's enslaved, the passing of the Gradual Abolition Act of 1780 and its results, as well as civil rights issues in the decades before the Civil War. End with a discussion about the legacy of abolition in Pennsylvania.

Saturday, March 9th at 2:00pm – Life in 18th Century PA

Have you ever wondered what life was like in Colonial America? Well, now is your chance to find out! This presentation explores various facets of life in eighteenth-century Pennsylvania, including social classes, the lives of women and children, fashions and dress, religion, cooking and food, and other topics. It includes historical diagrams, images, and portraits for visual representation. The presentation is also accompanied with a "traveling trunk" of reproduced eighteenth-century articles of clothing and food utensils, for you to see and hold.

Saturday, February 10th from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

Weathering the Winter

Winters were harsh in the 18th century, but even in cold and snowy weather there was still plenty of work to do around the farm. Fires had to be built, food preserved and cooked, and animals needed tending. Visit the Farmstead on February 10th to watch our living historians demonstrate the types of farm chores a family like the Wentzes would have had to do this time of year. Watch as meat and other provisions are cured and preserved in the Smokehouse, check out a cooking demonstration in the Summer Kitchen, and more! All ages; Free.

Saturday, February 24th and Saturday, March 2nd from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

Maple Sugaring

Join our farmers as they create maple sugar from trees right here at the Farmstead! Watch as they tap the trees, collect the sap, and create the syrup. Learn about the Indigenous origins of maple sugaring and how the process has continued through to today. Once your mouth starts watering, stop by Philly Waffle Cabin's food truck and enjoy one of their delicious Belgian waffles! This program is weather dependent, if the temperature isn't just right the sap may not flow! All ages; free

Thursday, March 21st at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm

Homeschool – Let It Shine

More than 100 years before electric light became a common feature in most American homes, how did a family like the Wentzes see after dark? The best way to light your home was to use candles! Come dip your own candles while learning about the history of light in the 18th century. Then, make a lantern for your candles through the art of tin punching. Limited space, email rebecca.blacketter@montgomerycountypa.gov to register. Two time slots available 11am or 1pm. Please include your preferred time slot in the registration. Ages 7-16 with adult; Free

Saturday, April 20th from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

Sheep Shearing Day

Experience springtime on a colonial farm! Watch our farmers shear our sheep to get them ready for the warm weather. Then, follow the "wool to wardrobe" process as our living historians demonstrate spinning, weaving, and other textile crafts. Hear about all the various activities that went into running an 18th century farm as you tour the historic house. Check out the sights and smells of an open-hearth cooking demonstration in the Summer Kitchen. Stop by our demonstrators' stalls to learn about important crafts like woodworking, basket-weaving, candle-dipping, and more. Kids will delight in a performance by Tuckers' Tales Puppet Theatre. We can't wait to see "ewe" there! All ages; free

Thursday, April 25th at 11:00 am or 1:00 pm

Homeschool – In a Pickle

The first home refrigerators went on the market in 1913. So how did people keep their food from going bad in the centuries before that? Visit the Farmstead to find out how 18th century families preserved their food. Then, learn how to pickle food yourself! Bring whatever veggies or herbs you want to try pickling. We'll provide the jars and vinegar. Limited space, email rebecca.blacketter@montgomerycountypa.gov to register. Two time slots available 11am or 1pm. Please include your preferred time slot in the registration. Ages 7-16 with adult; \$5 supply fee per family.

Saturday, May 18th and Sunday, May 19th from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

Great Central Sanitary Fair of 2024

Celebrate the 160th anniversary of the Great Central Sanitary Fair of Philadelphia, an event organized by the US Sanitary Commission to raise funds for soldiers' aid during the Civil War! To mark the occasion, the Peter Wentz Farmstead is putting together a modern interpretation of the fair. Stop by our vendors to do some shopping and learn about how the Sanitary Commission assisted in the war effort. Meet some Union soldiers and watch infantry and artillery demonstrations. Join us for this unique event where past and present collide! All ages; free.

Thursday, May 30th at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm

Homeschool – Grass Roots

Grass is just grass, right? Wrong! In fact, there are dozens of different types of grass in the world, each with its own unique features! Join us to learn about the uses for different varieties of grass and how our farmers use it to make hay for our animals. See how many different grasses you can find and identify at the Farmstead, then make a grass craft to take home! Limited space, email rebecca.blacketter@montgomerycountypa.gov to register. Two time slots available 11am or 1pm. Please include your preferred time slot in the registration. Ages 7-16 with adult; Free

Monday, July 8th thru Friday, July 12th from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Colonial Camp

Have you ever dreamed of traveling into the past? Well, we may not have a time machine, but we've got the next best thing. Join us this summer for the Peter Wentz Farmstead's Colonial Camp, where you can step back into the eighteenth century and live like a colonial farmer for a week! This year's Colonial Camp will run from Monday, July 8th to Friday, July 12th from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Each day, our living historians will lead campers through hands-on demonstrations of historical crafts. Past campers have learned quill-and-ink calligraphy, weaving, woodworking, and more. You don't have to be a history buff to have a good time! We'll be covering a wide range of topics like art, nature, agriculture, and technology.

Colonial Camp is for kids going into 4th-6th grade. The cost for the week is \$100 per child.

